

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for maintenance of a machine, having a function to determine an amount of payment for a maintenance service for the machine, the method comprising:

an operational condition data acquisition step of acquiring, by a sensor, operation condition data representing a physical quantity indicating an operation condition of a machine that is a target of maintenance service;

~~an alarming~~ a notification step of determining by a computer whether the machine is normal or abnormal based on the physical quantity indicated by the operation condition data acquired in the operational condition data acquisition step and based on a reference physical quantity, and generating a ~~predetermined alarm~~ notification by an output unit when determining that the machine is abnormal,

an operating time detecting step of acquiring an operating time of the machine by a measuring unit that measures a time during which the machine is turned on in a predetermined service period;

a quantifying step of computing ~~an index value that indicates~~ a quantified productivity of the machine over the predetermined service period ~~based on the~~

~~operation time detected in the operation time detection step and a predetermined~~

~~Operations Time;~~

a comparing step of comparing by a comparing unit the quantified productivity of the machine ~~quantified~~ in the quantifying step with a predetermined productivity reference to compute a difference between the quantified productivity and the reference productivity; and

a charge amount determining step of reading charge information for converting the difference between the quantified productivity of the machine and the reference productivity from a charge reference value storage unit and determining an amount of charge for the maintenance service in the service period based on a difference between the charge information and the difference computed by the comparing unit in the comparing step.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

a preliminary period operating time detecting step of detecting an operating time of the machine in a predetermined preliminary period by measuring using a measuring unit a length of time during which the machine is turned on in the predetermined preliminary period, and

a productivity reference determining step of determining the productivity reference by computing ~~an index value indicating~~ the quantified productivity of the machine over the predetermined preliminary period ~~based on the operating time in the~~

~~preliminary period, the operating time detected in the operating time detecting step, and the Operations Time in the preliminary period.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A system for maintenance of a machine, having a function to determine an amount of payment for a maintenance service for the machine, the system comprising:

an operational condition data acquisition unit that acquires, by a sensor, operation condition data representing a physical quantity indicating an operation condition of a machine that is a target of maintenance service;

~~an alarming~~ a notification unit that determines by a computer whether the machine is normal or abnormal based on the physical quantity indicated by the operation condition data acquired by the operational condition data acquisition unit and based on a reference physical quantity, and that generates a ~~predetermined alarm~~ notification by an output unit when determining that the machine is abnormal,

an operating time detection unit that acquires an operating time of the machine that measures a time during which the machine is turned on in a predetermined service period;

a quantifying unit that computes ~~an index value that indicates~~ a quantified productivity of the machine over the predetermined service period ~~based on the operation time detected by the operation time detection unit and a predetermined Operations Time;~~

a comparing unit that compares the quantified productivity of the machine quantified by the quantifying unit with a predetermined productivity reference to

compute a difference between the quantified productivity and the reference productivity;
and

a charge amount determination unit that reads charge information for converting the difference between the quantified productivity of the machine and the reference productivity from a charge reference value storage unit and determines an amount of charge for the maintenance service in the service period based on a difference between the charge information and the difference computed by the comparing unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a preliminary period operating time detection unit that detects an operating time of the machine in a predetermined preliminary period by measuring using a measuring unit a length of time during which the machine is turned on in the predetermined preliminary period, and

a productivity reference determination unit that determines the productivity reference by computing ~~an index value indicating~~ the quantified productivity of the machine over the predetermined preliminary period ~~based on the operating time in the preliminary period, the operating time detected by the operating time detection unit, and the Operations Time in the preliminary period.~~